



Kentucky Writing

A Cluster Leader Electronic Message

A Happy Holidays Writing Update from the KDE Writing Consultants

December 2007/January 2008



In this issue, please find information on

- Cluster Leader Tips and Ideas—Follow-up information from the fall training
- Announcements—Spring training information, New parent handbook, handbook information
- Writing resource recommendations
- Other announcements

Attachments

- Training announcement from the Louisville Writing Project
- A letter from the Collaborative Center for Literacy Development regarding Adolescent Literacy Summit
- December 2007/January 2008 Reading Report

Cluster Leader Tips and Ideas

Teaching the Writer: What Writers Need—KDE/CTL Instructional DVD

Cluster leaders from across the state have emailed to respond to CTL's question about how cluster leaders were using the DVD in their school to help train staff. Some of these responses are included below.

1. This is how we will use the DVD. Each teacher has been assigned to a group (usually grade level) to view the DVD, question, discuss, etc. I [the cluster leader] will be available for questions and will sit in on a few meetings. Our special education staff and area staff members are involved as well. We have a sign in sheet for each session. We have decided to take this avenue for our school since we are so large. With various

after-school hours responsibilities, it become increasingly more difficult to get everyone together.

2. The DVD is on my school's agenda for after school PLCs (Professional Learning Communities).
3. At our high school, we are currently getting the DVD copied for all teachers in the building. We are planning to use this as reference tool for all teachers as they develop writing in their classrooms. To make sure they know how to use it, I will be showing small groups of teachers in specific departments what the DVD can offer. Those teachers will then pass along their knowledge to others in their departments.
4. We have discussed having a training early next school year using this DVD to instruct teachers in each department how to improve revising and editing in their classrooms without taking valuable class time away from teaching the other core content for which they are responsible.
5. The DVD *Teaching the Writer* is being used at our middle school. As cluster leader, I created a viewing guide to accompany Chapter 1: The Three Kinds of Writing. My faculty watched the chapter and then responded to the questions on the viewing guide. We plan to watch each of the other chapters in a similar way. Additionally, my technology coordinator burned copies of the DVD for each team so that teachers can review any section of the DVD at their leisure. We plan to give these copies to the team leaders in January.
6. The cluster leader shared the information and disc with our staff during a Monday session. Copies were made for those that requested it. The cluster leader uses the classroom part of the disc in her classroom for teaching ideas.
7. Cluster leaders in our district are required to provide writing training for the staff each school year. They used the DVD last common planning with the staff (Nov. 12). The first chapter on the Three Kinds of Writing was covered.
8. The Technology Coordinator is in the process of putting the information on the district server. Every teacher in the district has a computer in his/her room that has both the DVD feature and required software applications to run it. Most classrooms have a projector and screen so it can be used in the classroom. There are portable projectors available so classrooms without permanent projectors still have equal access to the information. Schools are encouraged to use the Mondays to provide professional growth to the staff for whole group, small group, and individual assistance in the writing process. (We do not do an early release, but have twelve full days set aside for professional growth activities). We followed up with each cluster leader to ensure each had a copy and we support the utilization of this as a tool.

Announcements

Spring Training

The window for spring scoring training will begin **February 19** and run through the end of March. **High school cluster leaders** should be aware that their cluster leader trainings will be completed earlier than in previous years due to the ACT testing window March 11-25.

Cluster leaders should expect to receive an **invitation from CTL by January 10, 2008**. Training will be delivered to cluster leaders in their area of the state.

Cluster leaders who receive this CLEM via email but do not receive email from CTL should check to make certain CTL has the correct cluster leader name on their distribution list (Please realize that KDE and CTL have two separate distribution lists as CTL does not have direct access to the KETS global email list). To check with CTL, please call or email Shelia Peak or Linda Leugers at speak@ctlonline.org or lleugers@ctlonline.org. To call CTL, phone 1-800-995-3965.

Parent Handbook

Formerly called “Sharpen Your Child’s Writing Skills,” the new **Parent Handbook** has been revised and is now online in both English and Spanish. This link also contains the “Writing Tips” file to help parents help their children with writing.

Handbook Updates

The handbook update is still under review, so you will receive a separate email with this information soon.

Training Opportunities

Spring Training—See announcement above

e-Learning Kentucky Kentucky Virtual Schools Online Professional Development

Spring 2008 Course dates—January 16, 2008-March 5, 2008

Registration: December 5, 2007-January 4, 2007

Questions: email elearningkyinquiry@education.ky.gov or call toll-free 1-866-432-0008, extension 4541

Courses are facilitated, interactive, accessible, high quality. Courses will improve teachers’ knowledge, improve teaching practices, provide time to share ideas, help teachers practice 21st Century Skills, and increase student achievement.

Courses are eligible for 6, 12, or 24 hours EILA or PD credit. Except as noted, all online courses are appropriate for P-12 teachers and administrators.

Courses are available on:

- *The World is Flat* (Book Study)
- Library Media Programs and Services
- Safeguarding the Wired School House
- Differentiating Instruction
- Improving Reading and Writing in the Content Areas
- The Connected Writer: Using Blogs and Online Collaborative Tools to Enhance Student Writing
- Using Patterns to Develop Algebraic Thinking

- Instructional Approaches for Teachers of ELL
- Using Observable Phenomena
- Best Practices in the Digital Age: More than Just a PowerPoint

And many more!

Upcoming Conferences

Adolescent Literacy Summit—January 16, 2008

For more information, click on [the link above to view the information on the KDE Web site](#). Also, see the attachment to this email for more information.

The Collaborative Center for Literacy Development (CCLD) and the University of Kentucky are hosting the Adolescent Literacy Summit on **Jan. 16, 2008**. This professional development opportunity will give teachers a greater knowledge base in literacy strategies across the content areas and emphasize the importance of providing reading intervention for adolescent learners. CCLD supports the state's teacher-quality initiatives as a strategic approach aimed at enhancing student proficiency.

Kentucky Council of Teachers of English, Lexington, KY, Radisson Hotel,
February 1-2, 2008 Conference theme--“Hats off to Literacy”

Kentucky Teaching Learning Conference, Louisville, KY, **March 5-7, 2008**
Conference theme--“Student Learning for the Twenty-first Century, Every Child, Every Day”

Writing Resources

In this section, “Writing Resources,” we will bring you titles of resources we have been reading that may help you in the classroom.

This month,
Depeka and elementary ScAAT member Valerie Smith recommend

Seeing the Blue Between, Advice and Inspiration for Young Poets, compiled by Paul B. Janeczko, Candlewick Press: Cambridge, MA., 2002. ISBN—076360881-5

Seeing the Blue Between, Advice and Inspiration for Young Poets is a book of poetry written by thirty-two poets and includes letters of advice and support for future poets.

Dena recommends,

Holbrook, Sara. *Practical Poetry: A Non-Standard Approach to Meeting Content-area Standards*. Heinemann: Portsmouth, NH, 2005. ISBN—0325-00767-5.

“In *Practical Poetry*, Sara Holbrook shows you how precise language and keen observation can be used as nuts and bolts tools for addressing content and language standards in four key sub-areas.”

Lee Ann recommends,

[21st Century Literacies](#). A Policy Brief from NCTE. November 2007.

This policy brief discusses changes in literacy instruction that educators must recognize in our ever-changing, digital society. The policy brief disputes the idea that 21st Century Literacies only deals with technology, the internet, or computers. In the “flattening” of our world, educators must recognize and respond to the call for engaging students in the multiple literacies they will be expected to know.

Daniela, Harvey, Bizar, Marilyn and Steven Zimmelman. *Rethinking High Schools: Best Practices in Teaching, Learning, and Leadership*. Heinemann, Portsmouth: NH, 2000. ISBN—0325003246.

The data is clear. As students get older and move up in grade level, their proficiency in reading and writing decreases. In this age of high school restructuring, *Rethinking High Schools* will cause educators to carefully reconsider what effective high schools look like and to think about the implications for high school improvement.



An Update from the KDE Reading Consultants December 2007

For this month's reading report, please see the attached file.



For your convenience, [Cluster Leader Electronic Messages](#) are archived on our Writing Resources Web page on the KDE site.

Please bookmark this site. All of our writing resource and training materials are on this site.